

**Delegation of the
United States of America
to the
World Summit on Sustainable Development
Johannesburg, South Africa
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Press Release

**UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP:
ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The governments of the United States and Australia today announced a partnership to work together to alleviate poverty and address core development needs through an agenda to modernize energy services for the world's rural and urban poor. The joint framework of action on energy announced by U.S. Under Secretary of Energy Robert Card and Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage Dr. David Kemp is based on initiatives that the two countries have proposed for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

The U.S. initiative, entitled "Powering Sustainable Development from Village to Metropolis," will increase access to modern energy services, improve the efficiency of current energy systems, and change unhealthy patterns of energy use. Australia, along with Mexico, has submitted a proposal on behalf of APEC's Energy Working Group for "Fostering Regional Energy Cooperation in APEC." This initiative seeks to maximize the energy sector's contribution to the Asia-Pacific region's economic and social well-being, while minimizing the environmental impacts of energy supply and use.

In combining their efforts, the two countries intend to bring together governments, industry, international organizations and NGOs through performance-based and market-oriented partnerships aimed at providing affordable, reliable, clean and efficient energy in the developing world. In particular, the U.S. and Australia will focus on assisting developing economies to achieve greater efficiency gains. As Under Secretary Card noted, "Such energy savings are assets that can support broader social and development goals, such as better schools, good health care, cleaner water, responsible stewardship of environmental resources and higher living standards."

Dr. Kemp hailed the initiative as “a win-win for developing countries, freeing up resources to meet a whole range of goals while at the same time increasing environmental protection.”

The countries are combining their efforts at a pivotal time, when energy demand in developing countries is growing exponentially. Together, the U.S. and Australia will draw from their expertise and experience to help host governments get ahead of their respective development curves. Traditionally, efforts have focused on promotion of exports, trade and investment, and technology transfers – all part of the “supply-side.” The U.S. - Australia partnership will focus on the “demand-side” of the equation, linking appropriate supply with demand options and working with the developing economies to build their capacity to access and adopt cleaner and more efficient technologies.

In particular, the two countries will help host governments (1) pursue institutional and policy agendas that enable investment in cleaner energy technologies; (2) structure self-supporting financing instruments that can create the market demand to support private sector engagement; and (3) empower local entrepreneurs to participate effectively in the marketplace through capacity building workshops providing technical and managerial assistance.

Through their shared commitment, the U.S. and Australia registered their dedication to take concrete and practical actions that will yield real progress in achieving sustainable development.

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